

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A substrate covered at least partially with a layered coating, said layered coating comprising an intermediate coating and a hard carbon coating, characterised in that said intermediate coating comprises:
 - a first metal layer deposited on the substrate, said first metal layer comprising at least one element of group IVB, group VB or group VIB;
 - a nitride layer deposited on said first metal layer, said nitride layer comprising at least one nitride of an element of group IVB, group VB or group VIB;
 - a second metal layer deposited on said nitride layer, said second metal layer comprising at least one element of group IVB, group VB or group VIB;
 - a transition layer deposited on said second metal layer, said transition layer comprising at least one carbide of an element of group IVB, group VB or group VIB.
2. (Original) A substrate according to claim 1, whereby said hard carbon coating comprises a diamond-like carbon (DLC) coating.
3. (Currently amended) A substrate according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 1, whereby said hard carbon coating comprises a diamond-like nanocomposite (DLN) coating.
4. (Original) A substrate according to claim 1, whereby said hard carbon coating comprises a layered structure of diamond-like carbon (DLC) and diamond-like nanocomposite (DLN) coatings.
5. (Currently amended) A substrate according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, whereby said hard carbon coating is doped with a transition metal and/or with an inert gas.

6. (Currently amended) A substrate according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, whereby said first metal layer comprises Ti or Cr.
7. (Currently amended) A substrate according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, whereby said nitride layer comprises TiN or CrN.
8. (Currently amended) A substrate according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, whereby said second metal layer comprises Ti or Cr.
9. (Currently amended) A substrate according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, whereby said transition layer comprises Ti_xC_y or Cr_xC_y .
10. (Currently amended) A substrate according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, whereby said first metal layer and said second metal layer have a thickness between 0.001 and 1 μm .
11. (Currently amended) A substrate according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, whereby said nitride layer has a thickness between 0 and 5 μm .
12. (Currently amended) A substrate according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, whereby said transition layer has a thickness between 0.001 and 1 μm .
13. (Currently amended) A substrate according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, whereby the adhesion of said layered coating expressed by means of the Rockwell C test is better than HF2.
14. (Currently amended) A substrate according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, whereby the adhesion of said layered coating expressed by means of the critical load to obtain delamination is higher than 35 N.

15. (Currently amended) A substrate according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim
1, whereby said layered coating has a hardness of at least 10 GPa.